

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAB-02 H-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
L-03 A-01 PM-05 SP-02 DODE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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O 011807Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7948

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 01806

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, MILI, MX
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FORMIN ROEL

VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE TO MEXICO

1. YESTERDAY FORMIN ROEL AND I TALKED ABOUT POSSIBLE DATES FOR A RESCHEDULED VISIT TO MEXICO BY SECRETARY VANCE. ROEL SUGGESTED ANY TWO DAYS FROM TUESDAY THE 2ND OF MAY THROUGH FRIDAY THE 5TH. MONDAY THE 1ST OF MAY IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN MEXICO. ROEL LEAVES DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR A TRIP TO JAPAN AND RUSSIA WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TRIP FOR PREPARATION.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION ROEL REPEATED THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING WEEKENDS FOR THE SCHEDULING OF VISITS THAT INVOLVE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

3. IF PROPOSED DATES ARE NOT FEASIBLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ALTERNATE SUGGESTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

REQUEST BY SENATOR BAKER FOR THE POSITION OF THE GOM REGARDING THE REOPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PANAMA
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CANAL TREATY AT SOME FUTURE DATE

4. YESTERDAY I ASKED ROEL WHAT THE POSITION OF THE GOM WOULD BE IN THE EVENT THAT FIVE YEARS FROM NOW THERE WAS AN INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF PANAMA TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS ASSUMING RATIFICATION OF A TREATY THIS YEAR. I EXPLAINED THAT SENATOR BAKER HAD RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH ALL OF

THE HEMISPHERIC LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET ON HIS RECENT TRIP, THAT ALL HAD REPLIED BY STATING THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE U.S. IN SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE AND THAT SENATOR BAKER WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE MEXICO'S VIEW AS WELL. I ALSO ADVISED ROEL OF THE URGENCY OF AN ANSWER BECAUSE OF SENATOR BAKER'S INTEREST IN MAKING REFERENCE TO THIS
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MATTER DURING THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS ON THE SENATE FLOOR AS DEBATE ON THE TREATY OPENS.

5. ROEL ADVISED ME THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND GET BACK TO ME PROMPTLY.

FORMIN COMMENTS ABOUT THE FAO PROGRAM

6. I RAISED WITH ROEL YESTERDAY GOM INITIATIVES TO CURTAIL THE FAO PROGRAM AND ASKED HOW THE U.S. SHOULD INTEPRET THESE ACTIONS. ROEL SAID THE PROBLEM WAS NOT IN THE FORMIN BUT RATHER DEFENSE, THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WAS INVOLVED BUT THAT HE DIDN'T THINK THIS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A MATTER OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE.

FORMIN COMMENTS ABOUT THE SALE OF F-5 AIRCRAFT

7. I SPOKE WITH FORMIN ROEL YESTERDAY ABOUT THE WASHINGTON
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POST ARTICLE REGARDING THE SALE OF PLANES TO MEXICO. ROEL APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE MEXICAN REQUEST TO PURCHASE PLANES AND SO OUR DISCUSSION WAS LIMITED TO A REVIEW OF THE POST STORY. LUCEY

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